

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20008
Tel. # (202) 234-5414
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October 6, 1999

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies
Department of Energy
19901 Germantown road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

Dear Dr. Seligman:

Thank you for making the arrangements for this year's annual meeting between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the U.S. Department of Energy. I look forward to working with you in preparation for the meeting and during the meeting itself to ensure that the exchange and the work agenda we set for the upcoming year is productive and meets our mutual interests.

Accordingly, I would like to work with you to finalize the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Tom Bell of your office was kind enough to meet with Ms. Tina Stege and Ms Holly Barker to discuss the draft agenda proposed by DOE. I understand that their discussion was very fruitful and many ideas were exchanged about how to make the annual meeting as productive as possible.

There are several agenda items that the RMI would like to include in the discussions that DOE has outlined in the draft agenda. Using DOE's draft agenda as the basis of our work, I propose that we add the following:

1. A request by the RMI Government for the new medical contractor to include in the next annual report a clarification of the terms "exposed" and "unexposed" as used by the previous DOE contractor.
2. A discussion of what the environmental program presently does, as well as what it cannot do. I think it is critical that we jointly consider what the environmental program is not able to do so we can see what gaps there are. We all understand that there are legislative limits to the programs that DOE operates in the Marshall Islands. I think it would be beneficial, however, to think about what is needed to make the environmental program more comprehensive.
3. A discussion about both confirmed human radiation experiments, the chromium-51 experiments and the chelation therapy experiments.

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4. A discussion about the type of occupational safety program that might be appropriate for the Marshall Islands given the clean-up and resettlement activities taking place.

5. A discussion about other DOE programs that may be appropriate for the Marshall Islands, such as the long-term stewardship program.

6. A discussion about amounts and the effects of the tracer chemicals and toxic substances used by the U.S. Government in the testing program and its related programs. For example, poisons were used in the lagoon to help the scientists collect fish specimens for their research activities. Also, Dr. Tara O'Toole provided the Embassy with a list of tracer chemical used in the testing program.

7. A presentation by the Center for Disease Control about their tyroid study project and their efforts to undertake a dose reconstruction.

I think the meeting will be very constructive if we continue with our previous practice of setting a work plan for the coming year. I believe that the representatives from the National Governments and the Local atolls would benefit from a discussion about what DOE is able to do and what the local people need so we can consider what gaps lie between the existing programs and the existing needs.

I look forward to meeting with you next week to discuss this year's annual meeting.

Best regards,



Banny de Brum
Ambassador

cc: Minister Phillip Muller
Rongelap Atoll Local Gov't
Bikini Atoll Local Gov't
Enewetak Atoll Local Gov't
Utrik Atoll Local Gov't

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